



## Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

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### NEWS AND EVENTS

- **View the Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities.** The [Action Plan](#), a result of the collaborative interagency Asthma Disparities Working Group, co-chaired by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), aims to increase coordination of federal programs in order to get the right asthma care with the right support to the right children. Read a [press release](#) on this effort to learn more.
- **Visit *IAQ Tools for Schools* at Upcoming School Conferences.** Representatives from EPA will be attending two conferences this week and next to promote the *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance, including the [National Association of School Nurses \(NASN\) Annual Conference, June 23–26, 2012](#), in San Francisco, California, and the [2012 National Education Association \(NEA\) Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly, June 27–July 5, 2012](#), in Washington, D.C.
- **Read About a Recent Asthma Training Workshop.** EPA's Pacific Southwest regional indoor air program, and the University of Tulsa, in collaboration with Central Valley Children's Services Network and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, co-sponsored three consecutive asthma training workshops on June 6-8, 2012, in Fresno, Calif., for school districts and Head Start administrators, school nurses and child care and health care providers. The workshop covered the *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance, the impact of outdoor air pollution on indoor air exposures, and [asthma triggers](#) for child care providers and Head Starts. Read a [press release](#) on this event to learn more.

#### Did You Know ....

You can find out about local, regional and national events happening across the country on the *IAQ Tools for Schools* website?

Visit the [Events Calendar Web page](#) to search for upcoming events, conferences and webinars being held near you or online that focus on improving school environments.

Do you have an event to share? If so, send an email to [IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com](mailto:IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com) with a brief description of your event, and it may be featured on the website.

#### Share YOUR news and events!

Send us information to share with the school IAQ community. It could be featured in the next Connector e-newsletter. Email your news and events to [IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com](mailto:IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com).

#### Should we have our schools tested for radon? How do we keep mold from returning once it has been removed?

Find answers to these and other questions on the Schools IAQ Connector

- **Discover Why Good IAQ is Essential for Creating Green and Healthy Schools.** Robust IAQ management plans and healthy learning environments are essential components of green and healthy schools. Learn more by registering for the U.S. Department of Education's (ED's) Green Strides Webinar Series on Thursday, **June 21, 2012**, from 1-2 p.m. EDT. [Register today!](#)

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## SMART SUMMER SHUTDOWN — SAVE ENERGY AND PROTECT IAQ

Smart summer shutdown is essential for maintaining [healthy indoor environments in schools](#). During these warmer months, school or district representatives can take preventative and proactive actions to protect IAQ and save energy costs.



### Finding the Right Balance — Decreased Energy Use, Increased Humidity and Temperature

While it's easy to see significant energy savings from shutting down buildings completely during the summer months, the impact of not monitoring and adjusting for indoor temperature and humidity can be costly. Fluctuations in the indoor environment can have a negative effect on the building itself in the form of mold and dust mites, and on the building contents (such as books, files, sensitive musical instruments, or pieces of artwork).

Mold and moisture problems during [summer months](#) can be caused by several factors including: higher humidity in the outdoor air; lack of cooling system operation because school is out; and extra indoor moisture due to special activities, such as deep cleaning of carpets and painting. Checking for moisture and mold growth in your school buildings and taking preventive measures, such as cycling the cooling system to keep relative humidity below 60 percent, can help keep your buildings mold-free this summer.

While saving money on energy use, to prevent other common IAQ problems during the summer including inadequate ventilation and pests, be proactive. Use the summer break to [establish or re-evaluate your IAQ management practices](#) to ensure a healthy indoor learning environment at your school come fall. Read the tips below on how to save energy and control IAQ this summer!

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## HOTTEST TIPS FOR IAQ MANAGEMENT THIS SUMMER



With students away on break, summertime offers a great opportunity to take a look at your school's current IAQ management practices in order to ensure that actions are being taken safely and effectively.

Use the 10 tips below to ensure that you are prepared when the school doors open in the fall!

1. Start or revitalize your IAQ management plan based on the Key Drivers and Technical Solutions in the [Framework for Effective School IAQ Management](#). Make adjustments as necessary to ensure the sustainability of your program.

Email Discussion List. **Join today** by sending a blank email message to [schools\\_iaq\\_connector-subscribe@lists.epa.gov](mailto:schools_iaq_connector-subscribe@lists.epa.gov). Then check your email inbox for confirmation and membership details.

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### Access Previous Connector E-Newsletters Online

Can't find a previous *IAQ Tools for Schools* Connector e-newsletter in your email inbox? No problem! Visit the [e-newsletter archive](#) on the *IAQ Tools for Schools* website to access printable versions (PDFs) of all past editions.

2. Conduct walkthroughs of your school buildings to identify and prioritize any IAQ issues. Use the checklists in the *IAQ Tools for Schools* [Action Kit](#) to learn what to look for regarding ventilation, waste management, renovations and repairs, and many other areas.
3. Adjust [HVAC systems](#) for partial loading conditions to allow for maximum dehumidification and reduced energy needs during unoccupied periods in the hot and humid season. Use data loggers or humidistats to monitor space conditions.
4. Maintain a relative humidity level under 60 percent and allow room spaces to stay within 80-85°F to reduce energy waste and prevent [mold and moisture](#) issues.
5. Review summer repairs and equipment and [materials purchases](#) to be sure they align with your IAQ management plan.
6. Relocate activities that occur on school grounds during the summer, such as summer school classes, meetings, etc., to areas without a centralized HVAC system so that smaller cooling systems can provide the needed air conditioning.
7. Eliminate unnecessary plug loads by unplugging appliances such as small refrigerators and using power strips to turn off electricity to small appliances and computers.
8. Ensure cleaned carpets are thoroughly dried to prevent mold growth in the hot and humid months (**Wet Carpeting + No Ventilation = MOLD**). If there are mold issues, follow EPA's guidelines for [mold remediation in schools](#).
9. Use non-toxic cleaners, adhesives, paints, pesticides, solvents, carpeting, equipment and furnishings to reduce chemical fumes. For [chemicals](#) used in your school, implement a hazardous materials plan detailing use, labeling, storage and disposal using the [Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign](#) as a resource.
10. Obtain the support of top level management to promote your efforts. Securing commitments from school leaders provides you with the support you need to meet your school district's IAQ management goals. Use the [top 5 talking points for obtaining buy-in](#) to stress the importance of IAQ to members of your school community.

For more tips on taking action this summer, review EPA's [summer tips fact sheet](#) and an archived webinar presentation titled "[Implementing IAQ Tools for Schools: Proper Building Maintenance for Summer Months](#)."

### Does your school take different preventative IAQ actions during the summertime?

Share your tips with other school community members on EPA's School IAQ Connector Email Discussion! Join today by sending a blank email message to [schools\\_iaq\\_connector-subscribe@lists.epa.gov](mailto:schools_iaq_connector-subscribe@lists.epa.gov). Then check your email inbox for your confirmation and membership details.

## GET ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

Is there a topic you want to see covered in an *IAQ Tools for Schools* Connector e-newsletter? Do you have suggestions for a webinar or e-newsletter feature, or do you have questions about a specific IAQ topic? If so, send us an email at [IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com](mailto:IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com).

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance is a comprehensive resource designed to help schools maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting and preventing IAQ problems. Learn more about the *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools>.